November 8, 1966

"RUSH TO JUDGMENT"
BY
MARK LANE

Mark Lane, an attorney, was born in New York City on February 24, 1927. He served in the U. S. Army from May 1, 1945, to November 12, 1946, when he was honorably discharged with the rank of Private First Class. He resides at 178 Spring Street, New York City. NY
Mark Lane has a long history of affiliation with Communist Party (CP) front groups and organizations which have been cited as subversive.

The "Daily Worker" for May 27, 1953, stated that the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) held an election of officers on May 26, 1953, and that Mark Lane was elected an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the NLG. The "Daily Worker" was an east coast communist newspaper which is no longer being published.

In June, 1953, a source advised that Lane's name appeared on the membership list of the New York Chapter of the NLG and that he was a subscriber to the "Lawyers Guild Review," the official publication of the NLG. On May 17, 1961, Lane spoke at a membership meeting of the organization, according to another source.

The May 15 1964, issue of "Newsletter," a publication of the NLG, reported that Mark Lane was co-chairman of the National Committee of the Integration of the Legal Profession of the NLG.

The House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) has described the NLG as the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party.

On July 25, 1961, Mark Lane was the principal speaker at the annual ceremonies of the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs (ELF) at the Statue of Liberty in New York, The ELF is recognized by the Communist Party, USA, as an important progressive organization for women. It grew out of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order of the International Workers Order, both of which have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

PLH ITEM #899

Lane spoke at a meeting of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (ECLC) on October 21, 1962, in New York City. He strongly supported Cuba and its government and condemned American policy relating to Cuba. The ECLC has been cited by the HCUA as an organization operating as a communist front.

Lane was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1960, and in May, 1962, he was defeated in an attempt to secure the nomination as a candidate for United States House of Representatives from the 19th Congressional District in New York. A source reported, in connection with Lane's attempt to secure this nomination, that a meeting of the Manhattan County Communist Party Coordinating Committee was held on April 5, 1962, to discuss election problems in the 19th Congressional District. It was reported that the speaker at this meeting stated that the Committee had to support Mark Lane as the candidate since his views were most consistent with the "people's program." The speaker further indicated that a victory for Lane would be a tremendous victory for the progressive movement.

With regard to Lane's service in the New York State Assembly, "The Militant" for December 18, 1961, carried an article which related to Lane's appearance at a rally in New York on December 6, 1961. Lane reportedly stated that his first official action during the coming session of the Assembly would be to introduce a resolution to persuade the U. S. Congress to abolish the HCUA. "The Militant" is a weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party which had been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Mark Lane has been strongly opposed to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. During the early 1960's, he was very active in the New York Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee (NYCAHUAAC) and made numerous speeches in New York and other areas of the country in support of the aims of this organization.

The NYCAHUAAC is an affiliate of the National Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee and both were founded principally by an individual who was a Communist Party (CP) member in 1952. It has been reported that CP members in the New York City area have been solicited on various occasions to support the NYCAHUAAC.

PLH ITEM #899

Sources have reported that Mark Lane has been a frequent associate in New York City of Isidore Gibby Needleman, an attorney who was formerly employed by Amtorg Trading Corporation, the registered Russian trade agency in the United States. Needleman was reportedly interested in assisting Lane during his political campaign in 1960 when he was elected to the New York State Assembly. Needleman has represented current and former Communist Party members in court and before various Congressional committees. He has had custody of Communist Party funds and has described himself as a strict adherent of Marxist-Leninist doctrines. It has also been reported that Needleman has acted as a Soviet espionage agent in the past.

On November 6, 1961, a rally was held at the McMillan Theater, Columbia University, New York City, to protest the University's ban against the appearance of several communist speakers at that school. Benjamin J. Davis, National Secretary of the Communist Party, and Mark Lane were principal speakers at this rally.

On February 12, 1964, a meeting was held at San Diego which was sponsored by the San Diego Neighborhood Forum, the name under which the Communist Party sponsored public meetings in that area. This meeting was also sponsored by the Friends of the "National Guardian." Mark Lane was a featured speaker at this meeting.

Mark Lane was involved in an extensive public speaking tour in 1964 on behalf of the "National Guardian." He spoke concerning his knowledge of and inquiry into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Lane was, at that time, Chairman of the Citizens Committee of Inquiry, a New York group which he had formed to make an independent inquiry into the slaying of President Kennedy. Lane was hired on January 14, 1964, by Marguerite C. Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, to represent her dead son before the Warren Commission.

The "National Guardian" has been cited by the HCUA as having manifested itself as a virtual official propaganda arm of the Soviet Union.

During his speaking tour in 1964, Lane addressed several meetings of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs in various parts of the country. The W. E. B. DuBois Clubs is a communist youth organization which was conceived by the Communist Party, USA, and is currently being operated and controlled by the Communist Party.

PLH ITEM #899

On August 6, 1965, Mark Lane was a featured speaker before a meeting of the Militant Labor Forum of the Socialist Workers Party in New York City. His topic at that time related to the Cuban Revolution and he pointed out that the communist government in Cuba is best for citizens of that country and that the Cuban people had embraced communism because it was the only way open to them when the United States refused to negotiate. He also criticized American military action in Vietnam. The Socialist Workers Party has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Lane has been highly critical of American Policies in Vietnam and has spoken at various anti-Vietnam rallies and meetings.

"The New York Times" of June 9, 1961, reported that Lane had been arrested at Jackson, Mississippi, on June 8, 1961, as a member of a group of "Freedom Riders" who had been taken into custody in that city. He was convicted of breach of the peace in the City Court on June 8, 1961, and sentenced to four months' confinement and a $200 fine, with two months of the jail sentence suspended. This conviction was subsequently overturned in the County Court at Jackson and Lane was acquitted.

"The New York Times" also reported on April 3, 1962, that Mark Lane had been fined $415 on April 2, 1962, in New York City as a "scofflaw" for ignoring numerous traffic tickets.

Lane was arrested by the Baltimore County Police Department at Towson, Maryland, on July 4, 1963, in connection with participating in a civil rights demonstration. The disposition of this arrest is not known.

Enclosures (4)

PLH ITEM #899